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Raiderettes have height, distribution of talent

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the five tentative starters, "Smith and Martin have very good experience, and Abbitt and Johnson, the freshmen, have been looking very good in practice."

Traci Moore "is looking much improved," according to Tolley. "She's improved her shot, and she's gotten bigger, which should help her this season."

The coach adds that Janice Foster and Rhonda Carter both started on junior varsity last year, and "that experience should help them in their first year of varsity."

"Height, and a fairly even distribution of talent and experience should be our strengths this year," Tolley concludes. "We may have lost some speed with the loss of Ruby Smith and Robin Paulette, but we have several girls who have the potential to be very quick players."

Because the Raiderettes will have less speed than in past years, Tolley says that the team will likely play a zone defense, at least in the early portion of the season while the team is developing as a cohensive unit. "We probably won't have the quickness for man-to-man," notes Tolley. "I hope we can work some press into our defense with the zone."

Offensively, the Raiderettes will use a combination of past moves, according to the coach. "Sandra Watkins and Beverly Bennett both have good outside shots," notes Tolley. "Lisa Pannell has a good medium-range shot," the coach adds.

So the Raiderettes' opponents in the Seminole District will see a team with a slightly different flavor compared with Appomattox teams of the recent past.

Commenting on the district competition this season, Tolley notes that it is "difficult to say before the season who is going to be strong." On a purely speculative basis, Tolley says that Buckingham, Altavista and Jefferson Forest may have strong teams this season.

"It just depends on what players are coming back on each team," Tolley notes. "Some schools didn't have the turnout for girls' basketball that they normally do."

Tolley does believe that the Seminole District will be a "fairly well balanced one. I don't think you will see a single dominant team in the district this year," the coach notes. "There should be a pretty good balance among the first five or six teams."

The Raiderettes, who finished 11-10 last season (9-9 in regular season play) were scheduled to begin regular season play Tuesday against Gretna, after the **Times-Virginian** deadline. Tonight (Thursday) the team is scheduled to face off against William Campbell at home. The junior varsity will not play Gretna or William Campbell this season, as neither of those schools was able to field a jayvee team.

Game time is 7 p.m. for the varsity game.

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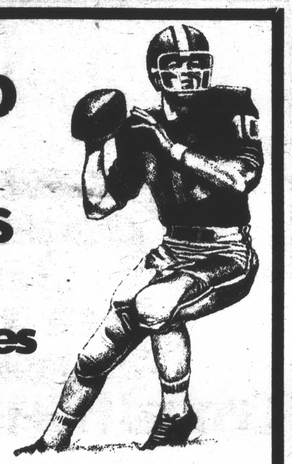

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